Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, Nov. 30, 1850. Sig. In submitting for your consideration a reet of the operations of this branch of the service oring the past year, I have concluded to modify ome extent the forms of statistics, by presenting annual tables of the sale and disposal of the blic lands so as to conform to the fiscal year, and ir years when desired. As it has been the

The surveys of the public lands and private seaused, however, will be compensated by in-

In the States of Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi, and chives connected therewith transferred to the ile, as will be perceived by reference to the folng unsurveyed: Areas of the States,

	Square miles.	Acres.
ORDO	3 4 9 6 4	25,576,960
Indiana	23 809	21.637.76
Limors	55 405	35,459,200
Masoner	67 380	43,123.200
*Alabama	50:043	32,027 490
· Massissippi	37.337	23,895,62
Luisiana	46.431	29,715,840
Michigan	56.243	35.995.590
Ariansas	52.198	33 406 720
Wisconsin	53.924	34.511.366
Termina	50.914	32 584 960
Flurida	59 268	37 931 520
Monneson Ter.	83,000	53,120,000
No thwest Ter.	587 564	376,040,960
Nebraska	136.7 0	87,488 000
Indian	187 171	119,789,440
New Mexico	210 744	131 876 160
Unah	187,923	120,270,720
Catifornia	188 981	120 947 840
Oregon	341 463	218,536,320
	2 526 462	1,616,935,598
		Unsnevered
	Sept. 30, 1850.	
Chica	16.770.984	None.
Irriana	21,488 658	None.
THIRDS:	35,455,469	3.731
Mosouri	42,613,273	509,92
Alabama.	31,993,813	33,67
Mesissippi	23,895,628	None.
in the inflation	19.152.523	10,563,317
Madigan	30.629,076	5,366,444
Armanians	33,201,425	205.293
Wisconsin	16.169.498	18,341,865
Local	19 196 106	13,338,854
Florida	21.907.314	16 024 206
Munesota Ter.	237,227	59,889,773
Northwest Ter.		376 040 960
Neimanka		87,488,000
fa-barr		119,789 140
New Mexico		191 876,160
Francisco		120 270 720

312,710,994 1,295,269,526 *Exclusive of Chickasaw land.

the public lands in all these States will be ered, and the archives connected therewith the aggregate amount of land disposed of in 1849, the cen to keep pace with the settlement, and to falling off in the current fiscal year, caused probemerprising pioneers to avail themselves of ably by emigration to the Pacific-the extensive beliefits of the pre-emption act of 1841, which reservations for the railroad from Chicago to Moopiess lerms excludes all persons who scale on totals have been located and the State selections

Where the surveys have been carefully and cor- disposed of vexecuted, it is but seldom that a re-urvey is ary, and hence no further expenditure in had the service is required.

Much emburrassment has been experienced in and will be offered early in the ensuing season. ning the location and survey of private e-accially in Florida and Louisian .; but, judicious direction of the surveyor genhave been located and surveyed, and the and the value of these lands, as a source of reveremoved. In Florida most of the private mars to have been done in a manner gen-repeable. During the present season it is that the remainder of the private claims, s. if not all, of the public lands of any valthe Seminale reservation, in this State, was 424,103,750 acres.

a Louisiana the resurveys in the Greensburg. About one-fourth of this land has authorized by the act of 29th August, bare been presecuted with great diligence a judicious and skilful direction of the The cost of the whole of these lands, general, and many of the erroneous and ent surveys in that district, which had ma-retarded public business for years, and a source of embarrassment and annoyance,

effort has been made by the surveyors. A portion only of these h and this office, to prevent errors and frauds public surveys; and for this purpose stringulations have been adopted, and explicit intis issued.

withstanding these precautions, it has recentdiscovered that in some of the surveys exemany years ago, especially in the northern the southern peninsula of Michigan, errors. Less than half the land and a few of like charte of more recent occurrence.

se evils cannot be wholly remedied by existdistation or instructions. They are caused want of skill or integrity on the part of the and can only be prevented by an active ance in the field, for which, and the exattending it, there is no authority of law; the employment of such deputy surveyors is any of unimpeachable character and high all animents. Since the discovery of the Nett profit to the Government and trauds alluded to, special instructions or an average of nearly one million and a quarter will necessarily lead to examination and \$1.03 1-5 per acre. The exact geographical position of all objects will be determined, and the prin- and vigorously employed in discharge of the on-

pographical and geological features of the erous duties growing out of its current business. ascertained and reported. his can readily be accomplished, without moneys, both as receivers and distorsing agents, trially retarding the progress of the surveys, have all been adjusted to, and including the third creasing their costs by the employment of quarter of the current calender year. The cale

tent surveyors, and the use of proper in-tru- selections, locations, &c., have nearly all been adsecure the services of such persons, a fair procure suitable instruments, and to dis- at our disposal for that purpose would permit. No- same in virtue of different treaties, hem to the deputies, at prime cost, includ- merous suspensions of land entries, in nearly all portation, reserving the right to repur-

truments can be purchased from him by rent duties have been discharged with commendavevue general, at such reduction from the ble diligence. may appear fair as second-hand instruments, o his successor at the same rate. To car- eral business of the office, consequent upon the these views, an item has been introduced claims to lands for military services. for which an appropriation is adapted to our borders on the Pacific, so of the locations by engrossing clerks into patents, sined. The elevated and striking objects, claims, which are devolved upon the accountants d by the bold outlines of the mountains, and book-keepers of the several divisions of the

FIACOF HEUNTON

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he same time admit of being arranged by calthe same time admit of being arranged by calthe rectangular system, as explained in the precedthe rectangular system. ar years when desired. As it has been the circle to found the table for the third quarter, in the concluded this year to tense with it, and to carry the statistics into the persecut, you the report.

In your estimates, I have concluded this year to tense with it, and to carry the statistics into the you the report.

In a decision and adjustment within a reasonable to the third quarter, in the period, and all claims that are valid, and should the recognized, and separated there is a permanent registry made in the period, and all claims that are valid, and should the recognized, and separated there is a permanent registry made in those books of such locations, in order to show the manner in the recognized, and separated there is a permanent registry made in those books of such locations, in order to show the manner in the recognized, and separated there is a permanent registry made in those books of such locations, in order to show the manner in the recognized, and separated there is a permanent registry made in those books to such locations, in order to show the manner in the recognized, and separated there is a permanent registry made in those books to such locations, in order to show the manner in the recognized, and separated there is a permanent registry made in those books to such locations, in order to show the manner in the recognized, and separated the recognized by the architecture.

Functionally a such a duced, excelling those of any other section of the thus prevent conflict of title. made prevented the extension of the surveys this timber, similar somewhat in character to the surtimber, similar somewhat in character to the su The delay 31 March, 1811, and 24th May, 1824 with this dif. which 52,269 have been located, covering 7,840,440 ference, that the tracts should be larger, and subject to subdivision by lines to be drawn from posts set Andama, the surveys have been completed, the placers, and other valuable mineral locations, and forged, and warrants obtained thereon and assignthoraty should be given for subdividing the sections ed, and passed into the hands of bona fide purchathe authorities, as required by the act of June 12. or other divisions, into lots of suitable size for sees by individuals personating the soldier. (\$40) and the office of surveyor general in those mining purposes, and reservations should be made

States discontinued. In Dinois, Ackansas, Michigan, Missouri, Louisiana and Florida, the surveys are heary brought to a close as spendily as practically as practically as a spendily as a spendily as practically as a spendily as a s In consequence of the great number of bounty wing table showing the area of each State, the land warrants issued and located, the low rates at leant, and date of assignment and acknowledgment. a speci of acre-surveyed, and the number remain- which those warrants have been sold, averaging. Those blanks were filled up after the issue of the firmed. only about eighty cents per acre, the grants and warrants, so that the assignments appear on their donations made to the several States for internal faces to be fair and regular, and executed after identified, they are traced out and the old measureimprovements and other purposes, the sales of the such issue. Warrants thus assigned are passed ments or localities are ascertained and re-establish-

> satisfaction of warrants and donations, exceeds, plain or controvert the assignment. very considerably however, that of the preceding

crease for 1849,	in the amou	ncof land	is disposed	of.
	Acres.			
Sales in 1848, Mexican war	1,887,553.04		52,621,615	26
warrants, State selections,	2,288,960 00	equal to	2,861,200	00
act of 1841, Improvements	378,058.57	equal to	472,573	21
of rivers, &c. Choctaw certifi-		equal to	401,485	51
cates,	57,249.10	equal to	71,561	37
Total acres,	4,933,009.04		\$6,428,435	35
	Acres.			
Sales in 1849, Mexican war	1,329,902,77		\$1,756,890	42
warrants, State selections,	3,405,520.00	equal to	4,256,900	00
act of 1841, Improvements	259,806.60	equal to	324,758	25
of tivers &c.	135 946 91	ennal to	169.057	20

warrants for

1st, 2d, and

quarter.

Choclaw certifi-

120.917.840

It would have been far better if these warrants Choctaw cerufi-53 935 33 equal to 67,419 16 Total acres, 5,184,410.91 all persons claiming by, through, or under the sol-dier, to assert their titles, where they could have Cas Sales in three tion of all the facts. quarters in 1850, 869.082.32 Mexican war

83,562,041 62

46,360.52 equal to 57,950-65

2,815,366 42

Since the last annual report, over six millions of

acres of lands have been brought into market, and

about seven millions are now prepared for -ale,

pre-sed of the cost of the public lands, and of sur-

veying, selling, and managing them, in compari-

That this matter may be correctly understood,

that the entire area of the public domain, exclusive of the lands in Oregon, California, New Mex-

561.121.717

7, 166, 324

justed, posted, and entered up to the same period,

There has been a material increase in the gen-

\$60.381.213

son with the revenue derived from them.

been sold, and the purchase money

including the amount paid to France for Louisiana, to Spain

for the Floridas, and amount paid

for extinguishing the Indian title

received for it amounts to

lands has been sur-

veyed, the cost of

which, including sal-

aries of surveyors gen-

expenses attending the

surveyed has been

sold, and the whole

cost of selling and

managing the same,

including every ex-

pense not previously

Aggregate outlay of every kind

SHITTEYS, Was

charged, is

Various opinions have been formed and ex-

improvements by theact of 4th September, 1841, and by other similar grants made to particular 1,520.120.00 equal to 1,900,150.00

made by counter-claimants.

chancery or otherwise

States by special acts of Congress.

The following table exhibits the present condi-Choclaw certifi-1,320,120,00 equal to 474,754 47 tion of the grant made by the act of 4th September, 1841, to-wit:

leaving blanks for the number, date of the war-

STATEMENT,

STATES.	Number of acres to which each State was entitled under the 8th section of the act of September 4th, 1841.	Number of acres approved up to the 30th June, 1850,	Number of acres to which each State was entitled on the 1st of July, 1850, and to be selected and approved.
Illinois, Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi	209.085.50 500,000.00 97,469.17 500,000.00	208,980 05 499,317 62 none. 498,835,53	682 38 97,169 17

500,000 00 494,513,43 5,486,57 Michigan, 500,000.00 499,889.03 110.97 Arkansas, 499.990.09 45,567.94 454,422.15 Florida. 500,000,00 172,394.86 327,605.14 Wisconsin | 360,364.01 | 285,648.42 | 74,715.59 Aggregate 1,166,908,77 3,061,017.2: 1,105,891 48

\$135,339,092 Thus it will be perceived that the grants made by this act have been nearly closed in several of the States, and special efforts are now making to complete those in all the other States. In some, particularly in Florida, this consummation has been prevented by the difficulty in completing the in many portions of the country in which selections have been made by the State, to distinguish public action could be had in the "State selections." A like difficulty has been experienced in bringing the

elected, the lands certified to the State, and closed provement of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, and by the act of 8th of August, 1816, except that porof California.

the connexion of those streams by a canal, made the appendic adjudication of claims in the State of the Government protected.

The State of Louisiana having made the necesthe connexion of those streams by a canal, made the despatched to the surveyors general to be deliars annually, for the last fifty years.

The but such as are of tried integrity, and

If to this should be added, the value, at \$1.25 tion west of Foxiver, wi bin the recent cession by mable abilities, and additional regulations per acre of the land granted in bounties for milita- the Menomonies, which has not yet been surveyed. an ad-pard in regard to their bonds, in or- ty services, and for internal improvements, dona- An intricate and laborious branch of our land opremarked the surveys, now in progress of sum. This will be more fully appreciated when preparation of grants for claims to land resting n should not come up to the requirements it is understood that the average cost to the gov- upon titles derived from foreign governments, and parament. The most certain preventive, ernment of acquiring title to the public lands, in- donations of lands under laws of the United States, of this difficulty would be to extend the cluding the extinguishment of the Indian title, is connected with which is the issuing of Patents for orize, in all cases, a pudicious combination acre; do, of survey, 207 cents per orize, in all cases, a pudicious combination acre; do, of survey, 207 cents per orize, in all cases, a pudicious combination acre; do, of survey, 207 cents per orize, in all cases, a pudicious combination acre; do, of survey, 207 cents per orize, in all cases, a pudicious combination acre; do, of survey, 207 cents per orize, in all cases, a pudicious combination acre; do, of survey, 207 cents per orize, in all cases, a pudicious combination acre; do, of survey, 207 cents per orize, in all cases, a pudicious combination acre; do, of survey, 207 cents per orize, in all cases, a pudicious combination acre; do, of survey, 207 cents per orize, acre; do, of surv em of surveys. By this process the work | acre sold the government gets \$1 25-100, or a net | Congress anticipated the necessity, and according-

The whole force of the office has been actively been derived from foreign governments It was the policy of Great Britain, France, and Spain, in the management of their colonial affairs, to exercise, upon a most extensive scale, the power The quarterly accounts of the receivers of public of granting away the royal domain, in many inquarter of the current calender year. The sales, erate quantities, to promote and advance the settle-

ment of the country. In this way millions upon millions of acres, in and the assuing of the patents for sales, private the aggregate, have been conceded to individuals, ensation should be allowed, and, in order to grants, donations, and military bounty lands, has and to that extent the public lands were encumberuniformity in the work, it has been con- been pressed for ward as rapidly as the means placed ed when the United States acquired title to the

By the laws of nations and terms of the treaties the divisions of the office, some of which for years of cession, it became incombent upon us to recoghave projuced much difficulty and correspondence nize end respect all bona fide grants, of this chard a deputy leave the service for any cause, have been taken up and disposed of, and the cur- acter, and in regard to them, to carry into full eftect, and in a liberal and just spirit, the intentions of our predecessors in sovereignly.

The various class of titles of this description, which have been designated, and are now known This increase arises not only from examination of successive general and special legislative enactended. This system would seem to be of the warrants and assignments, and the carrying ments, through a long series of years, reaching to the last session of Congress inclusive, and now of

be admirable points with which to connect a office in charge of the sales of the public lands. sioners, of the recorders of land titles of the Uni-

intendents-general, lieutenant-governors, or sub- ests of private individuals.

The whole number of Mexican warrants is used and transmitted to this office is 75 860 of which 52,269 have been located, covering 7,840,440

The system then, rests upon the laws, usages, and customs, in granting and surveying, of the laws and customs, in granting and surveying, of the laws are shall not be made without the laws in the execution of their work, and from the several classes—a few usuffuctuary; others, and a very large class, in which the Government has a very large class, in which the Government has a very large class, in which the Government has a very large class, in which the Government has a very large class, in which the Government has a very large class, in which the great classes—a few usuffuctuary; others, and individual.

The system then, rests upon the laws, usages, and customs, in granting and surveying, of the laws are shown to the character of those gentlemen, the care taken by individual.

The system then, rests upon the laws, usages, and customs, in granting and surveying, of the laws are shown to the character of those gentlemen, the care taken by individual.

The system then, rests upon the laws, usages, and customs, in granting and surveying, of the laws are shown to the character of those gentlemen, the care taken by individual.

The system then, rests upon the laws usages, and the character of those gentlemen, the care taken by individual.

The system then, rests upon the laws usages, and the character of those gentlemen, the care taken by individual. cres.

and customs, in granting and surveying, of the ting that the sale shall not be made without the valuable works of the kind ever presented, and

veys of the Public Lands, in order to sell and dis-Persons assuming to act as agents in procuring pose of the same in conformity to the will of Con-

Hence, wherever the ancient landmarks can be public lands during the past year nave been comparatively limited.

The whole quantity sold and appropriated in sit is difficult, if not impossible, for him to ex
The whole quantity sold and appropriated in sit is difficult, if not impossible, for him to ex
The whole quantity sold and appropriated in sold in the past year nave been comparatively limited.

The whole quantity sold and appropriated in sold in their original irregular forms, are inthe past year nave been comcases the soldier is generally defineded of his land, they were to be sold by the United States and the output of the minimum price of which was doubled by that law.

Under the act of 26th September, 1850, sold in their original irregular forms, are inthe rights of each other.

Under the act of 26th September, 1850, sold in the past year nave been comthe rights of each other.

Under the act of 26th September, 1850, sold in the past year nave been comthe rights of each other.

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The past year nave been comthe rights of each other.

Under the act of 26th September, 1850, sold in the past year nave been comthe rights of each other. lain or controvert the assignment.

Transfers are also frequently made, under and nexion with the contiguous public surveys.

in virtue of blank powers of attorney, surrepti ious-The following statement of the amount of lands by obtained from the soldier before the adjustica- preceded us, by which the granting power could sold and located by military land warrants, &c., tion of his claim, and filled up afterwards. There determine in advance, whether their concession and 1849 and first three quarters of 1850, are also numerous cases where the soldier has would conflict with their previous grants, has led exhibits the decrease in cash receipts, and the interms of the original grants generally stipulated Of this quantity there have that they were made on the condition that they been sold, up to 30th Septemwards put in circulation by a simulated assign-Some estimate may be formed of the extent of should not prejudice the rights of others, yet those these frauds, from the fact that about three hun-stipulations have not relieved us from the difficuldied warrants have been cancelled on the ground | ties and labor inseparable from the adjustment of of having been obtained on talse or forged papers, conflicting limits.

To this branch of the service is assigned the duty and about two bundred and seventy five have been mined, so far as executive action is concerned.

Fourteen hundred caveats have been filed in this The settling of such cases is an indispensable the 8th article of the treaty of 1834. Fourteen hundred cavears have been fired in this office by individuals contesting the issue of patents in the assignees, chiefly on the ground that the assignments are false and counterfeit, or, in fact, exception to the issue of the warrants, and the counterfeit of the issue of the warrants, and the dates subsequently inserted.

The whole of this cession has been brought into the issue of new grants or titles preliminary to the issuing of new grants or titles the assignments are false and counterfeit, or, in fact, exception of one section reserved to patents there is necessarily brought in review dates subsequently inserted.

The whole of this cession has been brought into the assignment for the section of one section reserved to be performed the past fall. The whole of this cession has been brought into the assignments are false and counterfeit, or, in fact, exception of one section reserved to patents there is necessarily brought in review of patents there is necessarily brought in review the whole previous history of each claim, from its accordance with the laws of our own Government; and in the preparation of the service to be performed the past of the assignments are false and counterfeit, or, in fact, exception of the service to be performed the past of the service to the constraint of the service to the appropriation.

The whole of this cession has been freely into the servic cases imposes much labor and patient investigation | cital or reference to all the material | points in its | cept a few tracts which are now subject to entry at upon this office. In cases where there is great con-thet of evidence, the parties are referred to the ju-

dicial tribunals to decide the controversy by bill in extent, from town lots, often of great value, and For public lands in this cession 22,450 patents. office, and given rise to much correspondence. trequently in conflict with each other, to claims of For reservations immense area, as in the "Forbes Purchase," had not been made assignable, and that the patent should, in all cases, have issued to the soldier, dead others, vs. the United States, the record of which All of which have been duly recorded in this office or living, and enured to the benefit of his heirs or alone, as submitted to the Supreme Court, covers and the accounts of the receiver have been adjustassignees. The courts of justice would be open to a printed volume of seven hundred and thirty six and up to 30th September, 1850.

the benefit of a fair trial and a careful investigative regard to confirmed settlement rights, and claims ducting thus far the land operations in the Chick-Much embarrassment has also been experienced in closing the grants made to the States for internal ted States surveyors to determine with certainty, siness, comprise ninety-three folio volumes. in the field, the place of the original improvement, or of actual grant.

tain private land titles, particularly referred to in the last annual communication from this office, in adjacent United States land district. which suits had been instituted against the United States to obtain confirmation under the act of Congress, approved, 17th June, 1844, decrees of confirmation obtained in the court below, an appeal by disposed of, many of which were very imporprayed to the Supreme Court of the United States, tant, from the value of the property at issue and most to the interests of the Government and the and there dismissed on the ground that the appeal the complexity of questions involved. had not been taken in the manner and within the period required by law.

this last proceeding, the decree of the court below | the right to enter without competition the land im- | should be entertained by all who have not realized became final, and the confirmations consequently

As it was obviously the intention of Congress. by the act of 26th May, 1824, which was revived and extended by the said act of 17th June, 1844, act have been reduced, as far as practicable, to a an additional teason, however, for the adoption of that cases of the magnitude of those alluded to should be determined by the highest judicial tribunal upon their merit, the subject is now brought to the notice of Congress for consideration, and the notice of Congress for consideration, and for such proceedings in the way of legislation as notice of settlement, as a preliminary step, to make When the history of the past with reference to this

their wisdom may suggest. nexion with the extension of the land system over king provision by law for the prompt adjudication, thers. settlement, and separation from the public land of

and recognized under treaty.

The first requiring attention are those in Oregon legislation of Congress. from private lands, till those claims were loca- and California. In the former, the claims, it is ted, and, of course, until that time no definite presumed, are comparatively limited in number, branch, and new cases are daily presented for the ment should share in it. When experience, howwhich come within the purview of the treaty of 5th August, 1846, between the United States and business connected with claims in Florida, under the "armed occupation act," to a termination. As ment by treaty has agreed to respect, may, it is sugalready mentioned, the "State selections', and cases action and co-operation of the surveyor general tion, to charge the surveyors general of the severamounting to about 1,400,000 acres, have all been gress, approved 27th September, 1850, to create the selected, the lands certified to the State, and closed office of surveyor general of the public lands in Full instructions have been made out, and trans-74.957,879 selected, the lands certified to the State, and closed upon the books of this office. The same may be upon the books of this office. The same may be donations to settlers. The decision of the act of Congress will be carried out—the right accordance with a usage then in force in Europe, a donations to settlers. The decision of the act of Congress, granting bounty lands, providing for the congress, granting bounty lands, providing for the survey.

sure, as far as possible, a reimbursement to thous, &c., it would amount to nearly double this erations is that charged with the examination and of the necessary instructions for that A report was made in accordance with this resoinceptive and other titles, in various stages of maof the act of 30th September last, so as 14.41 cents per acre; do, of survey, 2.07 cents per Indian Reservations. In legislating from an early are probably unaided by any actual survey under the governments from which they were derived. deputy will be a check upon the others, profit over and above every cost and expense, of bill introduced into the Senate at the last session, the selections, and has made considerable progress the recognition and adjustment of titles which had which looked to the appointment of a Board of therein. stances in immense bodies, but generally in mod- Department, subject to the revision of a tribunal and soldiers who have been engaged in the militaconsisting of the Secretary of the Interior, Attor- ry service of the United States." ney General, and Commissioner of the General

of the sales of the public lands. Single of the sales of the sales of the public lands. Single of the sales of th it clangular surveys, and from these points in order to determine whether they are correct in the investigation and adjustment of those titles, a subserved, the whole matter will be brought to a gon required a combination of the geodetic with Congress satisfied of the inexpediency of this year.

country. It would admit also of a departure from | During the past year 7,215 Mexican bounty land | delegates, military commandants and surveyors; | By different treaties negotiated with Indian tribes | acts of 1st and 3d March, 1847, have been brought ims have been prosecuted during the past year the rectangular system when necessary, along claims have been examined, and carried into parameter which the means at the disposition of this class of titles, number of the Republic, and it is expected that the final reports the rectangular system when necessary, along claims have been examined, and carried into parameter which the means at the disposition of this class of titles, number of the received in the re at half the energy which the means at the disposite and interesting questions have and extending up to a late period, the United States of the geologists will be received in time to be laid merous intricate and interesting questions have and extending up to a late period, the United States of the geologists will be received in time to be laid. sal of this office would permit. The late period at which the appropriations for the current year were on the rivers, and running into the uplands for the current year were on the rivers, and running into the uplands for the current year were lated to the parties entitled, and several thousand which the appropriations for the current year were on the rivers, and running into the uplands for the current year were lated to the parties entitled, and several thousand the period of the session, on the rivers, and running into the uplands for the current year were lated to the parties entitled, and several thousand the period of the session. These may be ranged into the uplands for the current year were lated to the parties entitled, and several thousand the period of the session. reased efforts in the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the Fresident of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the Fresident of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the Fresident of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the Fresident of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the Fresident of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring, so that the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring to subdivision by lines to be drawn from posts set the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring to subdivision by lines to be drawn from posts set the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring to subdivision by lines to be drawn from posts set the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring to subdivision by lines to be drawn from posts set the countries allowed to—upon numerous general sanction of the ensuing spring to the ensuin posts in the rear, and the back lines to be surveyed from the cardinal points, so as to conform to the lines frauds, as well upon the decisions and decrees of the inferior direct to the reservee, as in the Pottawaramie, Miof the rectangular surveys in the rear. In the the government. Numerous discharges have been judicial tribunals, and of the Supreme Court of ami, and Chickasaw treaties; others as under the September last, "granting the right of way, and 19th article of the Choctaw treaty of 1830, to i-sue making a grant of land to the States of Illinois,

> perfecting the evidence of titles to private individ- act of Congress approved July 5th, 1838, directing of that road, until the grant is adjusted. uals in cases which have been sanctioned or con- patents to issue to the last regular assignce, whatever may be the number of intermediate assign-

> > dian reservations, which

have been recognized, cover 2.421,679.86 do 4 296 906 41 do been sold, up to 30th Septem-3,997,588.97 do ber last,

Leaving unsold at that date 299 317.44 do

Besides the sales of "public lands," there have suspended upon allegations of the same character, of seeing that all such conflicts are properly deter- been disposed of by the land officers in the cession 36,005.68 acres of "Orphan reservations," under

The decision of these suspended and caveated inception to its confirmation and survey, and a re- price fixed by the treaty, of 121 cents per acre, ex- and the work will be completed early next season

There have been issued-2,200

Cases have arisen, and may hereafter occur, in which has been required and performed in con-

In the annual report of 1849 from this office, in I therefore renew, in relation to this class of ca- Chickasaw operations, the diminution of sales, ses, the recommendation in previous reports, that and the comparative small amount of business now f location, if application and a proper showing cial reference, and to reiterate my recommenda- The experience on the subject, since that rep be made within one year after the official designa- tion in the premises, unless indeed it should be the has fully su-tained the expediency and necessity tion of the land; and providing further, that such pleasure of Congree to pay the Indians for the res- of these measures, and the reasons then given for

its character, has been beneficial in its operation, has been introduced in the Senate. It has therefore been contended that, in virtue of securing, as it does, to every settler who desires it, ficient means to pay for the same, before he is re- Illinois, and of the lead and copper mines of Arquired to do so by law. The operations under this kansas, Northern Michigan, and Wisconsin. As

> The bounty land and scrip business under the From the beginning the Government has maniwound up as rapidly as possible, pursuant to the taining valuable minerals. This is a natural feel-

ac ion of the office.

Under the act passed by Congress on the 28th September, 1850, "to enable the State of Arkarsas from it, and is attended by a long train of serious and other States to reclaim the swamp lands with- evils, that system should at once be abandoned. most of the "private claims" have been located, as gested, be discriminated, and settled by the joint in their limits," it was decided, with your approbaarising under the "armed occupation act" will be and the register and receiver, acting as a Board of al States in which their offices existed, in the first April, 1785, by which one-third part of all gold. disposed of as rapidly as possible.

Commissioners, whose jurisdiction should extend to the several grants to the State of Indiana for the construction of the Wabash and Eric Canal, as may have been provided for by the act of Con-

> cers should be subject to the final determination of to all the swamp and overflowed lands, unfit for portion the product of the valuable mines therein the appellate authority, as hereinafter suggested | enlitivation, secured to the States, and the interests | should remain to the sovereignty.

> In that State the claims are much more numer- sary arrangements to defray the expense of select ous, and of a very different character from those ing the swamp lands therein, under the act of 2d | Lake Superior. indeed of an immense extent-and resing upon purpose were issued; and, at the instance of the lution, but no further action was had in relation to turny, as derived from the Governments of Old dered there to arrange and determine the principles of the 4th October, 1842, by which that country Spain and Mexico, and a great portion of which on which that grant should be adjusted, who dis- was acquired. charged the duty entrusted to him, and made his report, which was laid before Congress. In accor-To settle these claims, it is recommended that leg-dance with the instructions thus issued, and the islation be had analagous to a plan presented in a principles established, the State proceeded to make

> Commissioners, with power to visit different places in California, under the orders of the President, and to take testimony of all the facts relating to increases the grant made by the act of 1849.
>
> Instructions have also been prepared for all the the validity or invalidity of the respective claims, district land officers, under the act of 28 h Septemand to report the same, with their opinion, to the ber, 1850, "granting bounty land to certain officers tained in the report of the Secretary of War of the

In order that the liberal views of Congress, in Land Office, who shall have power to render final passing this law, should be fully carried out, and about \$1,600-a sum that would not more than pay decrees of confirmation, as against the United all possible expense saved to the brave and patriotic the annual salary of one of the superintendents States, and to be followed by a United States survey and patent. They should also have power to

ing their lands, and at the same time to protect the lands. reject all claims which, in their opinion, are not improvements of the hardy and industrious pioneer valid under the treaty; but, in case of any such re- settlers, it has been determined, with your approval, jection, the claimants should have the right to ap- to waive the affidavit heretofore required, that there a peal from such decision, and bring the case, by is no improvement on the land proposed to be locapetition, and a transcript of all the evidence and proceedings, before the district or circuit court of public lands to come forward and notify the land actual loss to the Government by the operation of sion of Congress; that we consider these measures the United States for the proper district in Califor- officers of their improvements; and to require that \$15,873. If to this be added the amount that would as settling the questions in controversy in relation nia, who shall thereupon enter up a decree, or de- the warrants shall remain turty days in the local have been realized from these lands if they had to slavery in the Territories and the States; and cision. from which an appeal may be taken by ei- offices, after they have been located. This will been sold at the ordinary minimum of \$1 25 per that they ought to be sustained now and hereafter as "Private Land Claims," have been the subject of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of the Supreme Court of the United of the Porty of th

the general features of that section have been but from the additional duties connected with those that location will be annulled, and a new one made that location will be annulled, and a new one made that location will be annulled, and a new one made that location will be annulled, and a new one made the decision shall be that location will be annulled, and a new one made the decision shall be that location will be annulled, and a new one made to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be that location will be annulled, and a new one made to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be that location will be annulled, and a new one made to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be that location will be annulled, and a new one made to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be that location will be annulled, and a new one made to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be that location will be annulled, and a new one made to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be that location will be annulled, and a new one made to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be the new one made to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be the new one made to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be the new one made to time to time to time as in other cases; but when the decision shall be the new one made to time to through the instrumentality of boards of commissioners, of the recorders of land titles of the United States, and disposed made for locating all warrants that may be sent to

NO. 8.

The geological surveys of the northern parts of Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa, authorized by the

Immediately after the passage of the act of 20th In advancing and gradually extending our surveys of the Public Lands, in order to sell and dispose of the same in conformity to the will of ConThere is also a class of between six and seven | structions were sent to the land officers of the dis-

This measure was adopted to prevent the lands along the route from being located by speculators thus securing to the States the benefits contemplate By the treaty of 1832, the Chicasaws ceded to by the law and preserving for future disposal by our Government certain lands in the northern part. the Government the lands in the alternate sections.

> the mineral land, in those districts which have been surveyed, will be brought into market as early as practicable next season, at the reduced minimum, arrangements having been made for that purpo e. Earlier action could not be had, for the rea extent in all the mining districts where the leasing son that the notice of the sale requisite under the law, before the lands can be offered, if given this fell, would have brought the sales into the middle of the winter, when bidders would have been prevented from attending in consequence of the sever-

ity of the weather. The ordering of these lands into market will of course finally close the employment of mineral agents in those regions.

Under the act of 3d August, 1846, for the scalement of suspended entries, many suspensions which had long embarrassed the operations of this were finally disposed of, the interests of the Government thereby subserved, and great relief extended to purchasers.

Several cases equally meritorious with those which were released were, however, not acted on, for various causes, most of which were beyond the It may afford some idea of the amount of labor control of this office. Others of equal merit have which has been required and performed in consideration of these facts. I recommend the revival of that act, for a period of founded on ancient written title, in which it is asaw cession, by reporting the fact that the records two years, which, it is presumed, will be amply sufficient for the purpose.

I renew the recommendation, made in my last report, that the duty of selling "reserved lands" be consideration of the gradual winding up of the devolved on this office, where the reservation of those lands may no longer be required for military or other public uses, and that this office be clothed power by law be conferred on the Department to locate any such claims by sectional limits, or according to the lines of the public surveys, giving responding reduction in the expenses. To hat re-the claimant a right to a review, and modification port in the present matter I beg leave to make spe. June, 1840.

designation shall be final it application for revision be not made within the period stipulated.

I deem it my duty again respectfully to invite

States stocks, and devoting the interest to the enthe attention of Congress to the condition of cer- downent of schools in the Chickasaw nation. The much attention, and various plans have been sugcially in reference to the valuable mineral lands in The pre-emption business has been progressing those regions. In view of the peculiar topographipeople, so far as those mineral lands are concern The act of 4th September, 1841, prospective in and a bill to establish such a system in that State

It is not a matter of surprise that these opinions proved and sented on, and generally enabling him, the results of this system. The same views were by ord nary industry, to realize from the soil suf. | held successively of the lead mines of Missouri and system, and proceed with batmony and efficiency. This system in California, it is alleged that the soil In fact, the only modification that could, in my in many of the placers is utterly valueless, except outh of their intention to enter, and prove that they question is considered, it will be found that there Among the most important matters that will have, in good laith, made the settlement and improvement contemplated by law. This provision, have produced like effects in all these States, and is believed, would remedy any existing abuses, that the same results will probably be experienced our newly acquired territory, will be that of ma- and afford every requisite facility to bona fide set- on the Pacific if the leasing system is introduced There.

location of "private claims," as it was impossible, all valid foreign titles, which should be respected war of the Revolution, and that of 1812, is being fested a desire to retain an interest in lands coning in these who, dazzled by the supposed value of Many vexed questions still arise under this the treasure, patriotically desire that the Governever, shows that the cost of obtaining this share The first action on the part of the Government

in relation to this subject was the ordinance of 13th The next was the joint resolution of 16th April,

1800, directing the employment of an agent to collect information relative to the copper mines of

delegation from that State, a special agent was or- these mines till after the treaty with the Chippewas The third were the acts of 3d March, 1807, au-

horizing the President to lease the lead mines in he Indiana territory. Under these laws the leasing system was adopted.

Of the early operations of it we have but little inormation, as the mineral lands were placed under the control of the War Department in 1821, and prior to that time there was but little if any thing The first official information I have found is con-

whole amount of real lead, received by the Government in 1841, and 1842, was 74,924 pounds, worth rent reneived in 1843, and 1844, amounted to 242,814 the following resolutions which were passed by pounds of lead, worth about \$4,856, while the amount expended on account of mineral lands by for the District of Illinois, at the December term In the event of confirmation of a claim by such in the hands of the land officers, if it is found that it court, a survey to be made and a patent to issue, has been located upon the improvement of a settler, a sum in comparison to which the loss above men-

tem with reference to revenue, and of the actual losses that the Government had sustained from it that on the 3d March, 1829, an act was passed authorizing the President of the United States to cause the valuable lead mines reserved in the State of Missouri to be exposed to public sale, subject to the ordinary minimum. This was followed by the acrost 13th July, 1846, directing the mineral lands of Illinois, Southern Wisconsin, and Iowa, to be sold; by the acts of 1st and 3d March, 1847. directing the sale of the valuable copper mines of Lake Superior, &c.; and, finally, by the act of 26th September, 1850, reducing their minimum price to

that of ordinary public lands. Thus it is seen that the whole of the leasing system, and the reservation of the mineral lands on account of their supposed value, after the experience of nearly fifty years, have been finally abolished in some of the richest mineral regions on the face of the earth, and that, so far as exhibits have been made, it is shown to have been a loss to the Government-directly to a considerable sum, and indirectly to a vastly greater amount.

It may be well to consider, also, the effects of this system upon the morals of the community in which

Having only a temporary connexion with the soil, and that of a character calculated to stimulate every effort for their own pecuniary advantage, the essees bad no inducement to aid in sustaining the laws, or encouraging a proper moral tone in the community. Success in mining operations secured wealth, faiture produced poverty, want, and their attendant evils. These mutations begut a spirit of wild speculating bazard, which in many cases was carried out to the fullest extent, and assisted in corrupting the moral sense and feelings of many in the community. The Government was regarded as a rich landed monopolist, that had no feeling in unison with the interest of the tenant, but was rather striving to strip him of a part of the earnings of his toll and privations. Hence arose a feeling of resistance to the Government and laws, and a disposition to evade those laws and the obligations of contracts by every possible expedient. Conscious of this kind of vassalage, the miners learned o look upon their Government with feelings of dissatisfaction and ill-will, and to manifest those sentiments in bitter complaints and remonstrances. This constant warring for wealth, stimulated also feelings of capidny, which were increased by consciousness of appression, and induced the miners not only to avoid, whenever practicable, the payment of tribute or rents, but also to encroach upon

they were to be sold by the United States and the amount as to show their various locations, limits, and precise positions on our township plats, in connection with the contiguous public surveys.

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The want of a system in the Government and miners, and among the mineral lands in the Chippens distinct to them. That cession, as the consequence behavior of the mineral lands in the contiguous public surveys.

The want of a system in the Governments that the Chippens distinct to the contiguous public surveys.

The want of a system in the Governments that the Chippens and the C Unceasing litigation was the consequence beor to remedy some real or supposed wrong. The tamiliarity with vice, thus induced, by a natural transition extended to individual and social rela-tions, the whole producing a state of society that could only be realized by personal observation, but system was in force.

Communities were kept in unceasing turmoil, ferment, litigation, and boodshed by this odious system, and that these evils were thus caused is evident from the fact that after the abrogation of that system the same communities are as orderly, peaceful, and law-abiding as any people in the

I he leasing system was the cause of much irritaxation; that the General Government, instead of selling the land retained the fee, and stood in the attitude of a powerful and opulent landlord, holding a large portion of the population in an abject and servile state of tenancy, destroying all inducements to cultivation, or the making of permanent improvements or seitlements upon the land, until Congress, seeing the accumulated evils and pernitions consequences, abolished, as before stated, the whole system.

It may be argued that in regions containing the precious metals, and where the lands in many cases aside from the minerals, are valueless, the same results would not be experienced; that it would be an unjustifiable disregard of the public interest to sell for any ordinary price a tract of land contain ing a rich gold or quicksilver mine, while it would be equally unjust to individuals to charge them such price for lands that should prove wholly

The answer is, that this state of things existed in the Lake Superior regions, with this difference, that here the mineral is copper, while on the Pacific it is gold, &c. The lands, however, in both regions, aside from the minerals, are equally valueless; yet those who were engaged in the Lake Superior op less land, extending even to three miles square, at high rates, for the purpose of securing a good min-ing location; and the fact that the mineral on the Pacific is the more valuable will only have a tendency to cause the greater efforts to defeat the Government in the collection of the tribute. The further allegation may be made, that in the

Lake Superior region mining could only be carried on profitably by companies and at a very heavy outlay of capital and labor?

By recent advices from California it appears that individual mining is declining, and that the mineral wealth of that country can only be successfully developed by combinations of capital and labor,

rther; from these advices I am inclined to think that those engaged in the mining operations there do not probably realize as much as the same number employed in agricultural or other branches of industry in that or other sections of our Union; and that but comparatively few of the many thus engaged acquire more than sufficient to pay their expenses or to enable them to return to the old Such being the fact, when all are left free and

untrammeled to prosecute their labors, wholly unconstrained as to time or place, and to enjoy the fruits of their toil, what would be the state of things if the country were swarming with office holders, and the enterprising emigrant, after surmounting the most appalling difficulties, dangers, and hard-ships, should find himself subject to the dictation of agents of the Government, to direct his movements and require of him a share of the means acquired by trying efforts and hurculean labor.

I herefore recommend that the lands in California be sold. Those that are agricultural, in the ordinary way; and those that contain valuable minerals in small lots, and subject, at first, to an increased minimum; that these mineral lands, after due public notice, be put up to the highest bidder, in quantities only to suit the demand; that, after such offering, it they remain unsold, to be subject to entry at an increased minimum. And if it be the determination of Congress to

secure a recompense for the valuable mineral con-tained in those lands, that they provide by law that all those minerals shall be assayed, in California, by the United States; that a given ratio of the same thus assayed, shall enure to the Government, and that no mineral shall be exported from the country until it is thus assayed.

adjustment of private claims, and making donations. o the States for internal improvements. Besides all this, we have, in anticipation, the arduous and immense labors incident to the management of the "private land claims," and of the "public lands" in our new acquisitions, which, doubtless, to a greater or less extent, will be assigned to this office by early legislation. Notwithstanding the actual accumulation of du-

ties, and those in prospect, it is not proposed at this time to ask any addition to the employes of this office, as it is hoped that, by an energetic and zealous application of our present force to the public business, it will be found adequate to the realization of the just expectations of the country. For the statistics alluded to in the foregoing, I

beg to refer to the accompanying statements in alphabetical order; and for the condition of the surveys, to the able reports herewith from the Survey-

With great respect, your obedient servant J. BUTTERFIELD, Commissioner.

Hon. A. H. H. STUART,

Secretary of the Interior.

Resolved, That we approve of the several com-

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